

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice.

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): An apparatus for reinforcing at least a portion of an endocardial surface of a ventricle in a human heart, comprising:

a reinforcing element configured to have a first predetermined shape and a second predetermined shape, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to change from the first predetermined shape to the second predetermined shape while in a left or right ventricle of a human heart, wherein the first predetermined shape is configured to allow the reinforcing element to be moved through a human vasculature to the heart, and wherein the second predetermined shape is configured to reinforce at least a portion of an endocardial surface of a ventricle of the human heart during use; and

an adjustment mechanism, wherein the adjustment mechanism is configured, upon activation by a user, to change a dimension of at least a portion of the second predetermined shape of the reinforcing element upon positioning the reinforcement element in the ventricle such that the reinforcement element changes from a second predetermined shape to a third shape.

2. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to inhibit expansion of an average of an endocardial surface over a cardiac cycle of the left or right ventricle.

3. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to inhibit expansion of an endocardial surface such that normal contraction and expansion during a cardiac cycle of the heart remains substantially unimpeded.
4. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to attach to a portion of the endocardial surface of the ventricle of the heart.
5. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a diameter of the second predetermined shape is larger than a diameter of the first predetermined shape.
6. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to releasably attach to a portion of the endocardial surface of the heart.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising an adjustment mechanism~~, wherein the adjustment mechanism is configured, upon activation, to change a dimension of at least a portion of the reinforcing element, and to thereby change a dimension of at least a portion of the ventricle.
9. (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 1, ~~further comprising an adjustment mechanism, wherein the adjustment mechanism is configured, upon activation, to change a dimension of at least a portion of the reinforcing element, and further comprising an engagement mechanism configured to inhibit the activated adjustment mechanism from moving.~~
10. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an activation mechanism, wherein the activation mechanism is configured to attach the reinforcing element to a portion of the endocardial surface of the heart.

11. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element comprises a patch.

12. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second predetermined shape substantially emulates a shape and size of a portion of a left ventricle.

13. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element comprises shape memory materials.

14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element comprises nitinol.

15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portion of the endocardial surface comprises at least some scar tissue.

16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing element comprises:
a plurality of conduits that form the first predetermined shape, the second predetermined shape, or the first predetermined shape and the second predetermined shape; and

at least one elongated member positionable in one or more of the plurality of conduits, wherein at least one such elongated member is configured to at least partially extend beyond a distal end of the corresponding conduit and to engage the portion of the endocardial surface when activated.

17. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the plurality of conduits comprises variable length conduits.

18. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least one elongated member is configured to change shape upon extending beyond the corresponding conduit.

19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least one elongated member is configured to change shape upon extending beyond the distal end of the corresponding conduit, and wherein the elongated member changes shape such that the elongated member extends away from a center axis of the reinforcing element.

20. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising one or more support elements, wherein at least one of the support elements couples two or more of the conduits to each other.

21. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising one or more support elements, wherein at least one of the support elements couples two or more of the conduits to each other, and wherein the support elements are configured to inhibit the reinforcing element from expanding beyond the second predetermined shape during use.

22. (Original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least two of the conduits radiate from a center region.

23. (Original): The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the center region functions as a coupling region for two or more of the conduits.

24. (Original): The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the center region comprises an opening configured to allow at least a guidewire to pass through the center region, and wherein the guidewire is configured to facilitate positioning of the reinforcing element on the endocardial surface.

25. (Original): The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the center region comprises a structure with an opening, wherein the opening is configured to allow a guidewire to pass through it.

26. (Original): The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a flexible conduit comprising a distal end configured to be inserted in a vasculature of a human body and positioned in a ventricle of the human heart.

27. (Original): The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a guidewire positionable in a flexible conduit, wherein the guidewire is configured to extend beyond a distal end of the flexible conduit during use, and wherein the guidewire is configured to releasably attach to an endocardial surface of the heart.

28. (Currently amended): An apparatus for reinforcing at least a portion of a human heart, comprising a reinforcing element having a first predetermined shape and second predetermined shape, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to attach to a portion of an endocardial surface of the heart to inhibit expansion of an average of an endocardial surface over a cardiac cycle of the heart, and wherein the reinforcing element comprises:
a plurality of conduits that form the first predetermined shape, the second predetermined shape, or the first predetermined shape and the second predetermined shape; and
at least one elongated member positionable in one or more of the plurality of conduits, wherein at least one such elongated member is configured to at least partially extend beyond a distal end of the corresponding conduit and to engage the portion of the endocardial surface when activated.

29-52 (cancelled)

53. (Original): An apparatus for reinforcing at least a portion of a human heart, comprising:
a reinforcing element having a predetermined shape, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to inhibit expansion of an average of an endocardial surface over a cardiac cycle of the heart during use, and wherein the reinforcing element comprises:
a plurality of conduits that form the predetermined shape during use; and

at least one elongated member positionable in one or more of the plurality of conduits, wherein at least one such elongated member is configured to at least partially extend beyond a distal end of the corresponding conduit when activated to engage the portion of the endocardial surface.

54-74 (cancelled)

75. (Original): A system for reinforcing at least a portion of a human heart, comprising:

a flexible conduit comprising a distal end configured to be inserted in a vasculature of a human body and positioned in a ventricle of the human heart;

a guidewire positionable in the flexible conduit, wherein the guidewire is configured to extend beyond the distal end of the flexible conduit during use, and wherein the guidewire is configured to releasably attach to an endocardial surface of the heart; and

a reinforcing element comprising a first predetermined shape positionable in the flexible conduit, wherein the reinforcing element is configured to change to a second predetermined shape and attach to a portion of the endocardial surface of a left or right ventricle of the heart, and wherein the reinforcing element is configured to inhibit expansion of an average of an endocardial surface over a cardiac cycle.

76-96 (cancelled)

97. (Currently amended): A method for reinforcing at least a portion of an endocardial surface of a human heart, comprising:

accessing an interior of a left or right ventricle of the human heart subsequent to a cardiovascular event prior to substantial ventricular deformation;

positioning a reinforcing element on at least a portion of the endocardial surface of the ventricle; and

releasably attaching the reinforcing element to a portion of the endocardial surface such that expansion of an average of an endocardial surface over a cardiac cycle is inhibited.

98-115 (cancelled)

116. (Currently amended): A method of reinforcing at least a portion of a ventricle of a human heart, comprising attaching a reinforcing element to a region of an endocardial surface of the ventricle subsequent to a cardiovascular event prior to substantial ventricular deformation, wherein the reinforcing element is attached such that at least a portion of a natural contour of the region is maintained.

117-139 (cancelled)

140. (New): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the third shape is similar to a shape and size of at least a portion of an appropriate left ventricle.